

Whereas teaching children about physical activity and sports not only ensures that they are physically active during the school day, but also educates them on how to be physically active and the importance of being physically active;

Whereas, according to a 2006 survey by the Department of Health and Human Services, 3.8 percent of elementary schools, 7.9 percent of middle schools, and 2.1 percent of high schools provide daily physical education classes or the equivalent for the entire school year, and 22 percent of schools do not require students to take any physical education classes at all;

Whereas, according to that survey, 13.7 percent of elementary schools, 15.2 percent of middle schools, and 3.0 percent of high schools provided physical education at least 3 days per week, or the equivalent thereof, for the entire school year for students in all grades in the school;

Whereas research shows that fit and active children are more likely to thrive academically;

Whereas increased time in physical education classes can improve children's attention and concentration and result in higher test scores;

Whereas participation in sports teams and physical activity clubs, which are often organized by schools and run outside the regular school day, can improve students' grade point averages, attachment to schools, educational aspirations, and the likelihood of graduating;

Whereas participation in sports and other physical activities also improves self-esteem and body image in children and adults;

Whereas children and youth who take part in physical activity and sports programs develop improved motor skills, healthy lifestyles, improved social skills, a sense of fair play, strong teamwork skills, and self-discipline and avoid risky behaviors;

Whereas the social and environmental factors affecting children are in the control of the adults and the communities in which children live, and therefore the Nation shares a collective responsibility in reversing the childhood obesity trend;

Whereas efforts to improve the fitness level of children who are not physically fit may also result in improvements in academic performance; and

Whereas the Senate strongly supports efforts to increase physical activity and participation of youth in sports: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning May 2, 2010, as "National Physical Education and Sport Week";

(2) recognizes the central role of physical education and sports in creating healthy lifestyles for all children and youth;

(3) encourages school districts to implement local wellness policies, as described in section 204 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 1751 note), that include ambitious goals for physical education, physical activity, and other activities addressing the childhood obesity epidemic and promoting child wellness; and

(4) encourages schools to offer physical education classes to students and to work with community partners to provide opportunities and safe spaces for physical activities before and after school and during the summer months for all children and youth.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 516—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICORPS MEMBERS TO THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 516

Whereas, since its inception in 1994, the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage the people of the United States in meeting a wide range of local and national needs and promoting the ethic of service and volunteering;

Whereas, each year, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for approximately 85,000 individuals across the United States to give back in an intensive way to their communities, their States, and the Nation;

Whereas those individuals improve the lives of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens, protect the environment, contribute to public safety, respond to disasters, and strengthen the educational system;

Whereas AmeriCorps members serve thousands of nonprofit organizations, schools, and faith-based and community organizations each year;

Whereas AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, are more likely to remain engaged in their communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals than the average individual;

Whereas, on April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Serve America Act (Public Law 111-13; 123 Stat. 1460) into law, which was passed by bipartisan majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and reauthorized AmeriCorps and will expand AmeriCorps programs to incorporate 250,000 members each year;

Whereas national service programs have engaged millions of people in the United States in results-driven service in the Nation's most vulnerable communities, providing hope and help to people facing economic and social needs;

Whereas, in 2010, as the economic downturn puts millions of people in the United States at risk, national service and volunteering are more important than ever; and

Whereas AmeriCorps Week, observed in 2010 from May 8 through May 15, provides the perfect opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alumni, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by AmeriCorps members and to motivate more people in the United States to serve their communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of AmeriCorps members to the lives of the people of the United States;

(2) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of AmeriCorps members, alumni, and community partners; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni and raise awareness about the importance of national and community service.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 517—IN SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TRAIN DAY, MAY 8, 2010

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DORGAN,

Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BAYH, AND Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 517

Whereas on May 10, 1869, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah, to join the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads, ceremonially completing the first transcontinental railroad and therefore connecting both coasts of the United States;

Whereas in highly populated regions Amtrak trains and infrastructure carry intercity passengers and commuters to and from work in congested metropolitan areas, providing a reliable rail option while reducing congestion on roads and in the skies;

Whereas Amtrak ridership in Fiscal Year 2009 reached 27.1 million passengers from 46 states;

Whereas, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country;

Whereas passenger rail provides a fuel-efficient transportation system, thereby providing clean transportation alternatives and energy security;

Whereas, when combined with all modes of transportation, passenger railroads emit only 0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases and one freight train can move a ton of freight 480 miles on one gallon of fuel;

Whereas developing this pipeline of national high-speed and intercity passenger rail projects will revitalize the domestic manufacturing industry and create additional American jobs building on the one million good-paying, middle-class-creating American jobs that can never be off-shored that are already supported by the rail industry;

Whereas ridership on Amtrak grew every year from 2000 through 2008, and is currently on track for 2010 to be its best ridership year ever, further demonstrating the increased demand for intercity passenger rail services; and

Whereas our railroad system is a source of civic pride, the gateway to our communities and a tool for economic growth that creates transportation-oriented development and livable communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Train Day, as designated by Amtrak.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 518—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 9, 2010, AS "NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK"

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 518

Whereas more than 1,500,000 elderly and disabled individuals live in the nearly 16,000 nursing facilities in the United States;

Whereas the annual celebration of National Nursing Home Week invites people in communities nationwide to recognize nursing home residents and staff for their contributions to their communities;

Whereas the theme for National Nursing Home Week in 2010 is "Enriching Every Day", honoring caregivers who are "enriching every day" for elderly and disabled individuals, adding value to their lives and helping them to overcome many of the infirmities of age and disability;